



## Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

### DIVISION OF PRETRIAL DETENTION AND SERVICES OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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### **BALTIMORE CENTRAL BOOKING AND INTAKE CENTER**

***Commissioner William J. Smith Announces***

***New Assistant Warden To Have Oversight of Booking Area***

**BALTIMORE, MD (October 11, 2005)—William J. Smith, Commissioner of the Maryland Division of Pretrial Detention and Services (DPDS), announced today that Otis Merritt, III would become the Assistant Warden for Booking at the Baltimore Central Booking and Intake Center (BCBIC). He will report to Warden Mitchell Franks.**

**Mr. Merritt has a long and distinguished career with the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS). Most recently, he served as Chief of Security of Central Booking and prior to Chief he served as a Major from 2002-2004.**

**No stranger to public safety, he worked in corrections for twenty-three (23) years. He began his career in 1982, as a Correctional Officer I, at the Maryland House of Correction. In 1990, he transferred to the Maryland Correctional Pre-Release System, where he rose through the ranks to become Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain. In 2002 he was promoted to Major and assigned to the Maryland Division of Pretrial Detention and Services.**

**In his new capacity, he will be responsible for the oversight of the booking area at BCBIC and providing executive leadership in this critical processing flow. For the past several months, Mr. Merritt has been working with Warden Franks to implement improvements in the booking process, ensuring compliance with a variety of requirements.**

**Commissioner Smith said, "I am confident that Mr. Merritt will carry out his responsibilities as Assistant Warden of BCBIC with the same high level of commitment that he brought to his work as Security Chief."**

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